



CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

24-HOUR REPORT

20 OCTOBER 2020

(U) CALIFORNIA

(U) Mountain View – US Justice Department Files Landmark Antitrust Case Against Google

(U) The Justice Department filed a lawsuit Tuesday alleging that Google has been abusing its online dominance in online search to stifle competition and harm consumers. The lawsuit marks the government's most significant act to protect competition since its groundbreaking case against Microsoft more than 20 years ago. It could be an opening salvo ahead of other major government antitrust actions, given ongoing investigations of major tech companies including Apple, Amazon, and Facebook at both the Justice Department and the Federal Trade Commission.

SOURCE: 20 October 2020, [San Diego Union-Tribune](#)

(U) NATIONAL

(U) District of Columbia – Six Russian Military Officers Charged in Vast Hacking Campaign

(U) Washington – Six Russian intelligence officers were charged in cyberattacks causing billions of dollars in losses and targeted a French presidential election, the Winter Olympics in South Korea, and American businesses. The case implicates the same Kremlin unit that interfered in the 2016 US elections but is not related to the 2020 US elections thus far. The indictment accuses the six defendants, all said to be current and former officers in the Russian military intelligence agency known as the Russian Main Intelligence Directorate (GRU), of hacks that prosecutors say were aimed at furthering the Kremlin's geopolitical interests and in destabilizing or punishing perceived enemies.

SOURCE: 20 October 2020, [AP](#)

(U) Florida – Wildlife Trafficking and Smuggling Operation Uncovered

(U) Marion County – The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) says flying squirrels, freshwater turtles, and alligators were illegally trafficked and smuggled across state and international borders. Seven people have been charged with racketeering, money laundering, scheming to defraud, and other organized criminal laws in what is being called "an elaborate organized enterprise" to smuggle Florida's wildlife out of the state.

SOURCE: 19 October 2020, [10 Tampa Bay News](#)

(U) New York – Peruvian Citizen Pleads Guilty to Transnational Drug Trafficking and Money Laundering

(U) Albany – Hilario Beltran, 47, Hilario Renato Mendoza Beltran, age 47, and a citizen of Peru, pled guilty today to conspiring to distribute cocaine and conspiring to launder the proceeds of an international cocaine trafficking organization. He admitted that between October and December 2014, he acted as a Peru-based operative for the organization by receiving and transporting approximately \$472,000 in drug proceeds and arranging for the delivery of approximately 140-kilograms of cocaine to co-conspirators in Piura, Peru. Pilots working for the organization picked up the cocaine at a clandestine airstrip outside of Piura, and flew it to Guatemala, and then on to Mexico, where it was smuggled into the US.

SOURCE: 20 October 2020, [DEA Press Release](#)

(U) INTERNATIONAL

(U) Brazil – US and Brazilian Federal Police Partnership Leads to Arrest of Human Smuggler

(U) Brasilia – US DHS Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) assisted the Brazilian Federal Police in the capture of a dual Egyptian-Lebanese national for the smuggling of nine Yemenis nationals. The Brazil Federal Police received an anonymous tip on the whereabouts of Hussein Mohamed Sobbihi Fatouh and a group of nine Yemeni nationals in the city of Assis Brazil, Acre, on 11 October. ICE HSI verified the identities and previous travel routes of the Yemenis nationals whom, except for one, were previously encountered and enrolled in the ICE Biometric Identification Transnational Migration Alert Program in Panama, Colombia, Ecuador, and Peru.

SOURCE: 19 October 2020, [ICE Press Release](#)

(U) Congo – More than 1,300 Inmates Escape from Prison in Eastern Congo

(U) Beni – More than 1,300 inmates have escaped from the central prison of Beni in eastern Congo after an attack by rebels of the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF), the town's Mayor Modeste Bakwanamaha said on 20 October. The ADF, a Ugandan armed group active in eastern Congo since the 1990s, has killed more than 1,000 civilians since the start of 2019, according to UN figures, despite repeated military campaigns aimed at destroying it. The Islamic State said fighters from its Central African Province franchise (ISCAP) carried out the attack, according to its AMAQ news agency. The group has claimed responsibility for several suspected ADF attacks in the past. But UN experts have consistently found that claims ADF is linked to international jihadists are overblown or false, said Dan Fahey, a former UN investigator.

SOURCE: 20 October 2020, [Reuters](#)

(U) France – French Police Conduct Raids Against Suspected Extremists After Teacher's Beheading

(U) Paris – Police in France raided numerous homes on 19 October, in a sweep of suspects alleged to have offered online support for last week's beheading of a schoolteacher who had shown his students controversial cartoons of the Prophet Muhammad, the Interior Ministry said. The attacker decapitated history teacher Samuel Paty, 47, then posted a graphic claim of responsibility on social media, according to police. In a confrontation later, police fatally shot the attacker identified as an 18-year-old Moscow-born Chechen.

SOURCE: 19 October 2020, [NPR](#)

(U) PREPARED BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER.

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